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Ray Trial Opens Tuesday Ringed by Tight Security

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MEMPHIS, Nov. 9—The murder trial of James Earl Ray begins here Tuesday with perhaps the strictest security measures in American trial history in effect.

The Memphis authorities are determined that Ray, who is accused of assassinating the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., will not meet the fate of Lee Harvey Oswald, the assassin of President John F. Kennedy. Oswald was shot to death in Dallas by Jack Ruby before he could be brought to trial.

More than 100 policemen, including 38 from the Memphis Police Department and the entire Shelby County sheriff's force, will be involved in guarding Ray. Every person entering the four-story courthouse during the trial must undergo at least two security checks, including a search, before being admitted to the tiny courtroom where the trial will be held.

Reporters of pools for trial coverage have been fingerprinted and photographed, as have lawyers and court personnel. Before entering the courtroom, all spectators will be searched again and their voices will be recorded and analyzed to prevent an impostor from inadvertently getting near Ray. Even Judge W. Preston Battle, who with Sheriff William N. Morris Jr. ordered the security precautions, will undergo the security clearance each day.

The trial is expected to last six weeks or more, even though Judge Battle said that he would hold court six days a week. Court will begin from 9:30 A.M., adjourn for lunch at 12:30 P.M., resume at 2 P.M. and recess for the day at 5 P.M.

Spectators, including reporters, will not be allowed to leave or enter the courtroom except

Continued on Page 70, Column 4

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